

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 04801 01 OF 02 132026Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 EB-08 AID-05
AGRE-00 HA-05 MCT-01 CTME-00 INT-05 DOE-15 SOE-02
NRC-05 /147 W

-----043931 132122Z /14

R 131141Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8552
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCEUR
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 4801

CINCEUR AND CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, PINS, PINT, AF, IR, PK, US
SUBJECT: SIX WEEKS AFTER AFGHANISTAN'S REVOLUTION: A SUMMING UP

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF MY ANALYSIS OF THE
SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S.
POLICY SIX WEEKS AFTER THE REVOLUTION OF APRIL 27-28
AND ON THE EVE OF MY FINAL DEPARTURE FROM KABUL.

2. THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
AFGHANISTAN (DRA) IS OVERWHELMINGLY DEPENDENT ON THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 04801 01 OF 02 132026Z

SOVIET UNION. IT CANNOT STAY IN POWER WITHOUT SOVIET
HELP. IT RELIES ON HUNDRED PERCENT ON THE SOVIET
UNION FOR MILITARY SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT, AND IN-
CREASINGLY ON THE SOVIET UNION FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE,
BOTH TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL, AND FOR TRADE.

3. THE LEADERS OF THE DRA HAVE BEEN IDEOLOGICALLY

INSPIRED BY THE SOVIET UNION. THEIR ADHERENCE TO MARXISM-LENINISM IS REVEALED IN THEIR RHETORIC, IN THEIR STATED INTENTION TO FOLLOW THE SOVIET DEVELOPMENT MODEL BY EMPHASIZING HEAVY INDUSTRY AND COLLECTIVIZATION OF AGRICULTURE, IN THE WAY IN WHICH THEY HAVE ORGANIZED THEIR PARTY AND GOVERNMENT, AND IN THEIR CLOSE AFFINITY TO THE SOVIET SATELLITES.

4. THE NEW LEADERS OF THE DRA ARE ELATED BY THE SUCCESS OF THEIR REVOLUTION. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY CLEARLY FEAR THE POSSIBILITY OF ACTION AGAINST THEM FROM BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL FORCES, AND SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS ARE HIGHLY VISIBLE AND STRICT. A NATIONWIDE NIGHTTIME CURFEW IS STILL IN EFFECT.

5. I AM NOT AWARE THAT ANY OPPOSITION TO THE DRA IS BEING ORGANIZED BY ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT. IT IS, HOWEVER, CLEAR THAT THE DRA REPRESENTS A MINORITY OF THE AFGHAN POPULATION AND THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE APPREHENSION AND OUTRIGHT OPPOSITION TO THE REGIME INSIDE AFGHANISTAN IN THE MIDDLE CLASS, THE CLERGY, AND THE TRIBES. AT THE MOMENT, THIS OPPOSITION IS

FRAGMENTED AND LEADERLESS AND, HENCE, POSES NO IMMEDIATE THREAT TO THE REGIME. WHETHER IT CAN COALESCE AROUND A LEADER IN THE MONTHS AHEAD REMAINS TO BE SEEN; BUT, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KABUL 04801 01 OF 02 132026Z

EVEN IN THAT CASE, IT WOULD HAVE TO OVERCOME THE CONSIDERABLE MILITARY POWER OF THE DRA, BACKED BY THE MILITARY RESOURCES OF THE USSR, IN ORDER TO OVERTHROW IT. A POSSIBLY MORE LIKELY SCENARIO INVOLVES ASSASSINATIONS, TERRORIST ACTS, AND GUERRILLA WARFARE IN THE MOUNTAINOUS TRIBAL AREAS ADJOINING PAKISTAN. OTHER POSSIBILITIES WHICH ARE HARD TO EVALUATE AT THE MOMENT INCLUDE SPLITS WITHIN THE CIVILIAN LEADERSHIP OR BETWEEN CIVILIAN AND MILITARY LEADERS.

6. THE NEW LEADERSHIP IS INEXPERIENCED IN GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION AND WILL HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME WITHOUT EXTENSIVE EXTERNAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN COMING TO GRIPS WITH AFGHANISTAN'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS. THE ECONOMY MAY MOVE AHEAD ON ITS OWN STEAM FOR A WHILE, AIDED BY A FAVORABLE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION THIS YEAR, BUT DIFFICULTIES COULD BECOME EVIDENT WITHIN SIX MONTHS TO A YEAR. THE PRIVATE SECTOR, FOR EXAMPLE, IS SLOWING DOWN RAPIDLY, AND THE PRINCIPAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT REVENUE, CUSTOMS RECEIPTS, HAVE FALLEN SHARPLY.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 04801 02 OF 02 132038Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 EB-08 AID-05
AGRE-00 HA-05 MCT-01 CTME-00 INT-05 DOE-15 SOE-02
NRC-05 /147 W

-----044052 132121Z /14

R 131141Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8553
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCEUR
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KABUL 4801

CINCEUR AND CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLADS

7. IN FOREIGN POLICY, THE DRA WILL UNQUESTIONABLY NOT WANT TO ENGAGE IN ANY ACTIONS WHICH WOULD DISTURB THE PEACE IN THIS REGION -- AT LEAST UNTIL IT HAS CLEARLY SOLIDIFIED ITS POSITION WITHIN AFGHANISTAN. THEREAFTER, ITS FOREIGN POLICY, PARTICULARLY TOWARD PAKISTAN AND IRAN, IS LIKELY TO BE HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY THE WISHES OF THE SOVIET UNION. THERE IS NO QUESTION IN MY MIND THAT THE SOVIETS WANT TO KEEP THE PUSHTUNISTAN AND BALUCHISTAN CARDS AVAILABLE FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE USE, AND THAT THE DRA WILL BE THEIR INSTRUMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 04801 02 OF 02 132038Z

8. ONE QUESTION THAT COMES TO MIND IS WHETHER THE DRA

WILL WANT TO OR BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN ANY DEGREE OF INDEPENDENCE FROM THE SOVIET UNION. THE LEADERSHIP SAYS IT WANTS TO. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER IT IS ABLE TO. MOST SIGNS SO FAR INDICATE THAT THE SOVIET EMBRACE IS PRETTY TIGHT.

9. ANOTHER QUESTION IS WHY THE SOVIET UNION ITSELF WANTS TO DOMINATE AFGHANISTAN. DURING THE DAOUD -- AND EVEN THE ROYAL -- REGIMES, THE SOVIETS GOT WHAT THEY WANTED OUT OF AFGHANISTAN STRATEGICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY. WHY DO THEY WANT TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS FRACTIOUS COUNTRY, AND WHY DO THEY WANT TO ASSUME AN EVEN GREATER SHARE OF THE COSTLY ECONOMIC BURDEN OF AFGHANISTAN'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT? MY BELIEF IS THAT SOVIET IDEOLOGY PERSUADES THEM THAT HISTORY IS ON THE SIDE OF MARXISM-LENINISM AND, IF MINIMAL RISKS ARE INVOLVED, HISTORY SHOULD BE NUDGED ALONG, PARTICULARLY IF IT INVOLVES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOVIET-DOMINATED REGIME. IN THE CASE OF THE AFGHAN REVOLUTION, IT WOULD APPEAR FOR THE MOMENT THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE GOTTEN AWAY WITH IT WITHOUT ANY SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO THEIR RELATIONS WITH US OR WITH THE INDIANS, AND THAT THEY HAVE ACHIEVED SOME NEW PSYCHOLOGICAL ADVANTAGE IN THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH IRAN AND PAKISTAN. ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE, THEY ARE GIVING AWAY NOTHING FREE HERE. ANYTHING THEY WILL SPEND IN AFGHANISTAN WILL BE REPAID WITH AFGHAN MINERAL RESOURCES, ESPECIALLY PETROLEUM, GAS, AND COPPER, BUT POSSIBLY ALSO IRON AND URANIUM.

10. IN THIS SITUATION, WHAT SHOULD THE UNITED STATES BE DOING? WITH RESPECT TO AFGHANISTAN, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD DO OUR BEST TO MAINTAIN A SUFFICIENT PRESENCE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KABL 04801 02 OF 02 132038Z

HERE SO THAT WE CAN OFFER AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE EXTENT THAT THE AFGHANS ARE WILLING AND ABLE TO USE ONE. WITH RESPECT TO THE REGION, I HAVE LONG FELT, AND CONTINUE TO FEEL, THAT THE SECURITY OF IRAN AND THE PERSIAN GULF REGION IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES, AND ALSO THE SECURITY OF PAKISTAN INsofar AS IT AFFECTS OUR INTERESTS IN IRAN AND IN THE GULF. I THEREFORE BELIEVE IT IS INCUMBENT UPON US TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO SHORE UP IRAN AND PAKISTAN AGAINST THE NEW THREAT TO THEIR SECURITY POSED BY THE SOVIET-BACKED REGIME IN AFGHANISTAN. WE SHOULD LEAVE NO DOUBT IN THE MINDS OF THE SOVIETS THAT WE REGARD OUR INTERESTS IN IRAN AND PAKISTAN AS VITAL.
ELIOT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KABUL04801
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780247-0416
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780666/aaaaceuq.tel
Line Count: 222
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7562498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2377170
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIX WEEKS AFTER AFGHANISTAN'S REVOLUTION: A SUMMING UP
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, PINS, PINT, AF, IR, PK, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7562498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014